

stimulate economic growth and protect the most vulnerable among us.

Carbon pollution entails costs, but right now taxpayers are footing the bill. By making polluters responsible for the damage they cause and returning all of the revenues to individuals and employers, we will send a signal that innovation in clean energy and other low-carbon technologies will be the driving force behind the global economy of the 21st century.

The United States should not cede leadership in those sectors to China, Germany or any other country. We always lead. It is what Americans do best. American ingenuity led to some of the most exciting developments in the last century—from the airplane and the assembly line to the microprocessors and solar cells. With the right policies, we can assure American leadership for the next century as well.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. GARDNER). Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING RICHARD EVANS

Mr. REID. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the distinguished career of Richard Evans, who has served as a Transportation Security Administration, TSA, aviation compliance inspector, passenger service manager, and county sheriff.

Richard Evans has always been a man of sound judgement and conviction. He began his law enforcement career at the Orange County Sheriff's Department in 1964 at the age of 21. As would become recurrent in his career, Richard rose through the ranks for 20 years and retired from the sheriff's department as an investigator. During Richard's exemplary career, he participated in numerous high-level, dangerous undercover cases. The department called upon Richard to participate in many joint Federal, State, and local task forces. He always answered the call and was willing to go above and beyond.

Following his service with the Orange County Sheriff's Department, Richard spent 17 years rising through the ranks of the world's largest airline fleet, American Airlines. Richard worked at the John Wayne Airport in

Orange County, the Ontario International Airport, and the Los Angeles International Airport. He completed his career with American Airlines at McCarran Airport in 2001.

In the aftermath of September 11, 2001, Richard answered the call to service yet again and joined the TSA. He was quickly assigned to the law enforcement liaison section, where he built upon his 20 year law enforcement career and his 17 years with American Airlines. For nearly two decades, Richard has been the point of contact for all dignitary movements and specialized screening at McCarran Airport. In conjunction with Federal, State, and local law enforcement officials, Richard seamlessly ensured the safe and security of dignitaries in one of the Nation's busiest airports.

Official records note thousands of successful escorts, which include escorts for the President of the United States, the Vice-President of the United States, and former Presidents. Richard has personally coordinated the movements of Kings, Queens, Prime Ministers, Princes, Princesses, Ambassadors, and senior officials from more than 57 different countries. Nearly every Governor in the United States, a vast majority of Executive Branch Cabinet Secretaries, multiple Supreme Court Justices, and countless Members of Congress have experienced Richard's unrivaled expertise and without fail everyone agrees: Richard is the standard for exceptional service.

Richard Evans is a wonderful man and one of the finest public servants I have had the pleasure of meeting during my career. His trustworthy, problem-solving nature was always apparent when crises or challenges presented themselves. Dignitaries in the United States and around the world were fortunate to have been in his capable care. I commend Richard for his service to this Nation, and I wish him the best in his retirement and future endeavors.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, this month, the Senate passed a resolution recognizing Hispanic Heritage Month and celebrating Hispanic Americans as dedicated public servants in the highest levels of government. These great Americans include a Supreme Court Justice, 3 U.S. Senators, 34 members of the House of Representatives, and 3 members of the President's Cabinet. I commend the U.S. Senate for passing this resolution celebrating Hispanic heritage, but we should be doing much more than approving a resolution. We should be working on a bipartisan basis to pass comprehensive immigration reform, as the Senate did last Congress under a Democratic majority. At the same time, the Senate should immediately confirm the several judicial nominees supported by the nonpartisan Hispanic National Bar Association.

There are three outstanding Hispanic judicial nominees that are currently

pending on the Senate's Executive Calendar: Luis Felipe Restrepo, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the Third Circuit; Armando Bonilla, nominated to a judicial vacancy in the Court of Federal Claims; and John Michael Vazquez, nominated to a judicial emergency vacancy in the district of New Jersey. A fourth, Dax Lopez, has been nominated to a judicial vacancy in the Northern District of Georgia, and is still awaiting a hearing in the Judiciary Committee.

These dedicated public servants are eager to serve, but they have been blocked by the Republican leadership's virtual shutdown of the judicial confirmation process since they took over the majority in January. More than 8 months into this new Congress, the Republican leadership has allowed just six votes for judges. At this rate, the Senate this year will confirm the fewest number of judges in more than a half century. Luis Felipe Restrepo, Armando Bonilla, John Michael Vazquez, and Dax Lopez all deserve an up or down vote by this Senate.

Judge Restrepo was nominated last year to fill an emergency vacancy on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit in Pennsylvania. If confirmed, Judge Restrepo would be the first Hispanic judge from Pennsylvania to ever serve on this appellate court and only the second Hispanic judge to serve on the Third Circuit. He was unanimously confirmed 2 years ago by the Senate to serve as a district court judge. During his tenure as both a Federal district court judge and as a Federal magistrate judge, he has presided over 56 trials that have gone to verdict or judgment. He is superbly qualified, and I have heard no objection to his nomination. Despite his outstanding credentials and experience, it took the Republican majority 7 months just to schedule a hearing in the Judiciary Committee for this qualified nominee.

Judge Restrepo has bipartisan support from both Pennsylvania Senators and was voted out of the Judiciary Committee unanimously by voice vote. He has the strong endorsement of the nonpartisan Hispanic National Bar Association. At his confirmation hearing in June, Senator TOOMEY stated that "there is no question Judge Restrepo is a very well-qualified candidate to serve on the Third Circuit." Senator TOOMEY described Judge Restrepo's life story as "an American dream" and recounted how Judge Restrepo came to the United States from Colombia and rose to the top of his profession by "virtue of his hard work, his intellect, his integrity." I could not agree more.

Given his remarkable credentials, wealth of experience, and strong bipartisan support, the Senate should have confirmed Judge Restrepo months ago. Instead, for 10 months since his nomination back in November 2014, he has been denied a vote on his confirmation. No Senate Democrat opposes a vote on his nomination. He is being denied a confirmation vote by Senate Republican leadership. No one doubts that he